

The Chronicle and Directory for 1872.

NOW READY.

THIS WORK, now in the Tenth year of its existence, is ready for delivery. It has been completely revised and printed at the most authentic sources, and no pains have been spared to make the work complete in all respects.

In addition to the usual varied and voluminous information, the value of the *Chronicle and Directory for 1872* will be further augmented by the addition of a Chrono-photograph plate of the NEW CODE OF SIGNALS IN USE.

AT THE PRESS, also of THE VARIOUS HOUSE FLAGS.

(Designed expressly for this Work.) MAPS OF HONGKONG, JAPAN, and of the

THE EAST OF CHINA: besides other legal information and statistics corrected to date of publication, tending to make this work in every way suitable for Public, Mercantile, and General Offices.

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The delivery of the Daily Press from this office commences on Friday morning at 10.00, and the last messenger leaves the office at 10.25.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, MARCH 2ND, 1872.

MAY it be asked what is the present state of the gambling matter in this Colony? It was understood very definitely that Sir RICHARD MACDONALD was instructed to take steps on his return to Hongkong to put down public gambling; but so far from his doing so, all that has up to the present been done has been precisely in the opposite direction. The licensees have been withdrawn from the houses, and the Hon. Mr. SMITH and Mr. DEANE have been in some way appointed to take steps to put down gaming; but in what manner their appointments have been made, or what steps they intend taking, remains a mystery, and so far as can be seen, nothing whatever is at present being done to prevent the Chinese having gambling-houses to their hearts' content. The chief step that has been adopted since Sir RICHARD's return has been the issue of a prohibition to the police against giving information about, or taking steps to arrest, any persons found to be illegally gambling; a measure which, looked at in a common sense light, can be taken only to mean giving the greatest encouragement to gamblers, unless it is to be supposed that the wonderful arrangements made with Messrs. SMITH and DEANE will be effective in bringing all illicit houses to the knowledge of the Government. It is not too much to say that if anyone deliberately wished to do all in his power to increase gambling in the Colony, he could not do better than take the steps which have been adopted by the Government. The Chinese have been told in the notification, to which we gave publicity some time ago, that the Police have nothing to do with the matter of public gambling, and that this matter rests entirely with two officials specially appointed for that purpose. The object of this arrangement, we are told, is to prevent the Police from being bribed; but if it does effect that end, it most assuredly will not prevent bribes being given right and left to prevent any steps being taken by the authorities to interfere with public gambling houses. Both Mr. DEANE and the Hon. Mr. SMITH are gentlemen, who are, it is superfluous to say, above the suspicion of being open to be bribed; and they are held out to the public as a security that everything is right, and that no such bribery will take place, as would be the case of men in the position of ordinary policemen, to whom the sums which the natives are willing to pay would offer a very great temptation, were employed to put down gaming. This would be perfectly true, as has already been noticed, if those two gentlemen were able personally to undertake the duty of suppressing gambling-houses; but they must be dependent upon subordinates, and so far as the scheme is understood at present, those subordinates will be Chinese informers. Now, then, does the matter really stand? There are a certain number of public gambling-houses kept in various parts of the Colony. The men keeping them are informed that they are quite safe from interfering in the matter; but they are vaguely told that Mr. DEANE and Mr. SMITH will take steps for putting down their houses. Now, what will be the instinct of gambling-house keepers with this information in their possession? Will they not simply argue that if they can find out the men upon whom the two officials who have been appointed to put down gambling are dependent for information, and bribe them to keep quiet, they will be left to carry on their illicit houses in peace? With the knowledge of the extent to which the Chinese are willing to bribe, it is impossible to come to any other conclusion than that this will be the plan resorted to; and the Government must have a very unwarranted confidence in the Chinese informers whom it employs if it imagines that they will not be quite aware of the lucrative account to which their position can be turned, and quite willing to make such use of it.

Thus, while we are flattering ourselves that steps are being taken to prevent the Chinese from resorting to bribery for the purpose of carrying on illicit gambling, we are really opening the door for more uncontrolled corruption than has ever been in

force before; the only difference being that native, instead of European, informers will receive the money. The advantage which is placed against this is that the Police Force will not be corrupted; but if their not being subject to bribery is to be attained only by a system which will permit gambling to go on unchecked, we had far better at once declare that we have no intention of attempting to put down gambling, because we cannot get hold of Police-men who will be impervious to the bribes that will be offered to them. This is the only form in which the question can be practically decided. If we have not European informers upon whose integrity, taken generally, we can rely, it is obvious that we cannot put down gambling, because it is not a matter of opinion but of certainty that the only other informants, that is Chinese informers, whom we can have, will be open to bribery, and consequently any intermediate measure must fail.

It is to be hoped that this point will be clearly understood at the Colonial Office, so that a correct idea may be formed of the merits of the steps which Sir RICHARD has taken for putting down gambling. If Earl KIMBERLEY himself were appointed to accomplish this in the manner which has been adopted, we should not have any more security against bribery than we should have with the Police Force, because he must employ native informers, who not only would receive bribes to push up what they discovered, but would make use of Earl KIMBERLEY's name for the purpose of increasing the amount of their extortions. Why it is to be supposed that Mr. DEANE will be less misled as a special officer, to suppress gambling than when Head of Police, and Mr. SMITH as an Assistant Suppressor, is less liable to be kept in the dark than as Registrar-General, is difficult to understand. Until it is shown that native informers are less liable to be bribed than European informers, it cannot possibly be maintained that the measures which have been adopted will be of the slightest use either in suppressing gambling or in diminishing bribery. In point of fact, all that has been done up to the present amounts to the licensees having been removed; but no steps whatever have been taken towards putting down gambling. Indeed, we are informed that public gambling houses are going on untrammelled in a variety of places, and that their existence is thoroughly well-known to many of the Police.

LATE TELEGRAMS.

The following telegram was received by His Excellency the Governor at a few minutes before 9 o'clock this morning, and has been sent to us for immediate publication:

LONDON, 1st March, 4.45 p.m.
Yesterday a yacht presented a splendid sight at the Queen, when about to leave her carriage at Buckingham Palace, on returning from her carriage drive. He was immediately seized, when the pistol was found not to be loaded. Her Majesty behaved with the greatest courage and composure, and is in good health and spirits. This is sent to prevent exaggerated reports.

EARL OF KIMBERLEY.
Hongkong, 2nd March, 8.55 a.m.

REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

SUPPLIED TO THE "DAILY PRESS."
LONDON, 28th February, 1872.
The "ALBANY" has been held a meeting yesterday. It is reported that the Cabinet will not withdraw any part of its claims.

HONGKONG, 1st March, 1872.

The Court of Summary Jurisdiction will sit on Monday next, instead of on Tuesday, as was announced. The Court will sit on Monday for the purpose of fixing the regular Court day for Monday; the present practice of sitting on Tuesdays is found to not do close on the mail. It is satisfactory to notice any change made for the convenience of the public.

The performance last night by Mr. Heller, under the patronage of Admiral Shadwell and the officers of the *Iron Duke*, was an excellent one. A large number of new and amusing feats were introduced, and the "exclamations" of the audience were well expressed. The pianoforte performance, consisting in part of some of Mendelssohn's *Lieder Ohne Worte*, was wonderfully good and very highly appreciated, and in response to an encore, Mr. Heller commenced the *Prelude* by Bach, which caused so great a sensation at the Amateur Concert, that astonished the audience by bringing off two or three unexpected successes in great style, which, however, displayed his marvelous powers of execution to perfection. On the whole, the performance was one of the most pleasing which he has yet been given. Adjoining Shadwell and the officers of the *Iron Duke* were present, and we also noticed the American and French Admirals. This evening Mr. Heller, whose resources seem to be unlimited, performs again with an entire change of programme.

HONGKONG CRICKET.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB v. H. M. S. NAVY.
This match was played on the 26th and 27th ult., and resulted in a victory for the Club by 10 wickets. The Navy had gained some good men, and the Club had some very good players. The time that the return match is played, will have had an opportunity of knowing the ground, and we expect will show better play, as there is no doubt that there is plenty of time for the Club to get into the field, and keep and long stopping was especially good. For the Club, Messrs. Maclean, Walsh, and Anon were the chief contributors, while for the Navy, Messrs. Brown, Dwyer, Miller, and others were the chief contributors. The match was a very interesting one, and was well attended by the public. The Club were victorious, and the Navy were defeated.

HONGKONG CRICKET CLUB.

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SUPREMACY COURT.

BEFORE THE HON. H. J. BAIL.

IN BANKRUPTCY.

G. W. Snelling, of bankrupt, passed his last examination, there being no opposition.

IN PROBATE.

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Business Announcements.

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